

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached new drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1-3. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1, 2 and 3, replace the original sheets that included FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. As indicated by the Annotated Sheets showing changes attached hereto, the previously omitted reference numerals have been added to each of FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. The amendments to the drawings are further discussed in the *Remarks* section of this amendment.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1-3

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes 1-3

REMARKS

DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended the FIGS. 1-3 to include reference numerals directed to the claimed features and which also correspond to the reference numerals described in the specification. These amendments are in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.84 and are reflected in the Replacement Sheets submitted herewith. The aforementioned amendments to the figures do not add new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 132. It is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered.

Accordingly, in light of the aforementioned comments, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and specification is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 20, 21 and 26 have been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of cancelled claims 1 and 5. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7, and any dependent claim depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are allowable.

Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of cancelled claims 20 and 21, per the suggestion of the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 25, and any dependent claim depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are allowable.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and no estoppels are intended thereby. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OFFICE ACTION

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

(1) Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18-24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirs (U.S. Patent 5,989,415). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (quoting *Verdegall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

Without conceding the propriety of the prior art rejection, claims 1, 5, 20, 21 and 26 have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. Claims 2, 3, 6, 14-16, 18, 19 depend from independent claim 7, while claims 22-24 depend from independent claim 25, each of which was indicated allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 6, 14-16, 18, 19 and 22-24 are allowable for at least these reasons.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection to claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18-24 and 26 be withdrawn.

(2) Claims 1-6 and 8-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Furlow (U.S. Patent 5,066,407). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Again, as discussed in connection with the previous 102(b) rejection, claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims.

Claims 2-4 and 8-19 depend from independent claim 7, which was indicated allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4 and 8-19 are allowable for at least this reason, and withdrawal of this rejection to claims 1-6 and 8-19 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

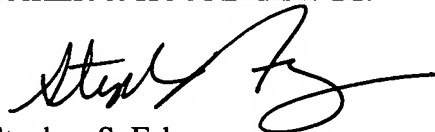
No extension-of-time fee or other fees are believed due. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-2036.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 202/861-1714.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP



Stephen S. Fabry
Registration No. 51,661

Date: 1/17/06
Washington Square, Suite 1100
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-861-1500
Fax: 202-861-1783

